

A BSB Interview With Julie Cannon

by Connie Ward, Bold Strokes Books Publicist/Author Liaison

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What made you decide to become a fiction writer?

I didn't consciously decide, I think it decided for me. I've always been a voracious reader, but never had any interest in writing until about five or six years ago. I was sitting at my desk one day and my mind was wandering, and out of nowhere an opening sentence came to mind and I started typing. Everyday I'd read what I had written to my girlfriend and it just kind of blossomed from there. I wrote off and on for several years, and one day I polished something up and submitted it to Bold Strokes Books.

What type of stories do you write? And why?

I call it sappy romance—you know happily-ever-after kind of stuff. But it's really more than that. They are stories of women who have feet of clay, aren't perfect, and struggle through life just like the rest of us. They persevere and grow to overcome their foibles with the love of the woman we all hope we'll find and spend the rest of our lives with.

What do your family/friends think about your writing?

My family was very surprised. They had no idea I was interested in writing, but are happy about it. My brother is particularly proud of his baby sister and wants a copy of everything I write to put on his bookshelf. He was a bit surprised when I sent him a copy of *Erotic Interludes 4—Extreme Passions*, that contains my first short story, *The Happiest Place on Earth*. He told me that he might never read it, but he has it on his bookshelf. My friends of course want to know if they're in it and keep asking if they get a free copy.

Where do you get your ideas?

Thin air, music lyrics, my own interests, my girlfriend, friends, and newspaper headlines. In other words lots of different places.

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How do you write; do you plan everything out or just write?

I typically just sit down and write. I have a general idea where the story is going, and I may make a few notes here and there so I don't forget something. Occasionally I'll write a scene that pops into my head and then figure out where it fits into the story later.

What makes *Come and Get Me* special to you?

You mean besides the fact that it's my first novel, which I couldn't have completed without the fabulous assistance from Jennifer, Stacia, and Sheri and is published by *the* premier lesbian publishing house? Nothing.

How much of yourself and the people you know are in your characters?

Actually it's the total opposite. There is nothing about me at all in my characters, other than they are everything I'd like to be. When I'm faced with something challenging, I think, "I wonder how Elliott/Lauren/Kyle/Lane/etc. would handle this?"

The only reference to the people I know are some of the names I use. For instance, in *C&GM* Elliott's brother-in-law has the same name as my brother, but my brother is way cool, and this Mark is a creep. I've also used the name of my best friend who recently passed away in one of my works as well.

Which lesbian authors inspired you the most? Do you have a favorite of this author(s)?

The first author I really fell in love with was Katherine Forrest. I love Detective Kate Delafield, and she can slap her cold metal handcuffs on my wrists and interrogate me anytime. Robbie Sommers wrote the first erotica I ever read, and I thought I had died and gone to heaven.

I don't think I have a favorite author; there are too many to have just one. I like different authors for different things. For example, Radclyffe writes heck of a love story, Kim Baldwin keeps me on the edge of my seat, Ali Vali makes crime sexy, and Ronica Black makes my heart race, just to name a few. And there are more and more good authors being published every day.

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Do you have any suggestions for new writers?

Read good work, read good work, read good work. The author doesn't matter. If it's a well-crafted story, read it and learn from it.

When you're not writing what do you do for fun?

Fun? Let's see...I have a sixty-hour-a-week job that I love, two kids in kindergarten, a partner of fifteen years, and I'm an author. Who has time for fun? Actually I'm a real homebody and combine all of those things to have fun. I like hanging out at the pool with my best girl, our kids, and some friends. We have a big travel trailer, and we load up the dogs and sometimes my mom and go camping every chance we get. We also have two ATV's and our kids love to go riding. They like riding with Mom better than me. They call me slow-poke!



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